

a long career in tribal and educational organizations.

Willis arrived to Roseburg, OR, in the early 1980s, continuing his work at Umpqua Community College in the Student Services department, and later at Rogue Community College as a financial aid officer, helping hundreds of young adults explore their career opportunities. After leaving his mark on the education arena, he decided to serve local American Indian tribes in their quest of cultural restoration and economic self-sufficiency.

In 1982, Willis began working with the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians, ultimately becoming general manager of the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde. His long and distinguished career in Oregon tribal government was illustrious and renowned throughout the State. He is well respected in tribal and State government circles. Willis was appointed to the Oregon State Board of Higher Education in 1993, where he served an important role until he stepped down in 2001. He was pivotal in the rise in prominence of our State Universities.

Currently, Willis is winning a hard-fought battle with cancer. I join with countless others in honoring his courage as he fights to overcome this devastating disease. We all look forward to the day that Jim Willis returns to help improve our great State of Oregon.●

IN MEMORY OF SCOTT HOFFMAN

● Mr. BEN NELSON. Mr. President, today I would like to share with my colleagues and the nation a tribute to a friend of mine from Nebraska.

On Sunday, February 8, 2004, Scott Hoffman of McCook, NE, passed away. His family lost a loving husband and father. I lost a friend and trusted member of my staff. And the State of Nebraska lost a proud native son and someone who embodied the attributes often used to describe our State—strong, hard working, caring and deeply invested in his community.

We are deeply saddened by the tragic loss of our coworker and friend. Our thoughts and prayers are with Scott's wife Darcey, their sons Christian and Stephen, his daughter Danae, and the entire Hoffman family.

Scott was a devoted family man, a dedicated public servant and a true friend. Scott seemed to always have his finger on the pulse of Southwest Nebraska. There isn't a community or a cause that isn't familiar with Scott's work advocating for the entire region.

Back when I was considering running in the 2000 Senate elections, I visited the local paper, the McCook Gazette, for an editorial board meeting. Scott was a member of the newspaper staff at the time. After the meeting he walked me out to the car and asked if he could join my campaign staff. We hired him and that was one of the best decisions I made.

Scott had a knack for working with people. He could as easily commu-

nicate with members of the press or a chamber of commerce as with elementary school students. He would walk into a room and be able to get disparate people to work together—a talent few have and fewer still can master. This ability made him an asset, not just to my office—and I am grateful he was a member of my team—but to the entire State of Nebraska. Scott always knew our primary concern is the welfare of Nebraska and he spent his time working on behalf of Nebraska's interests.

Scott's work on behalf of Nebraska was well respected and only recently did I learn that community officials sought out Scott to lead the McCook Economic Development Corporation. Scott, in his typical fashion, told the leaders that he was doing what he wanted to do and wasn't seeking a change. That loyalty was a defining characteristic of Scott Hoffman and he applied it to his job, his church, his family, his friends and his community.

His legacy can be measured in the outpouring of support his family has received in recent days. The community of McCook was there for Scott in the hours after he was reported missing. Over two hundred volunteers, including members of McCook Senior High's football and track teams, joined more than thirty first responders in the search for Scott. Although that search ultimately came to a tragic end, the dedication of these rescuers underscores Scott's connection to his community.

And the community of McCook was there again for Scott's family when news spread that he had passed. The letters, phone calls and testaments to Scott have poured in from Nebraskans across the State and as far away as Africa. It is overwhelming, but comforting, because we know that although Scott is gone, he will not be forgotten. In his 33 years, he has left his mark in McCook and his friends and neighbors will ensure that his memory lives on.

Scott was a good friend to many in the McCook area and across Nebraska, including me, Diane and everyone on my staff. He will be missed and remembered fondly by all who knew him, especially those of us who had the pleasure of working with him. Personally, I am going to miss his advice, his hard work on behalf of Nebraska, and most of all, the friendship I was so fortunate to share with him. He will be deeply missed by all of us.

A friend of Scott's at the McCook Gazette wrote this week of Scott that he "spent his time well." His activities on his last day with us bear that out. He took his sons Christian and Stephen sledding. He went grocery shopping for his family. He took his beloved dogs for a walk. In some ways it seems that he was called from this life at a moment of great peace, having fulfilled his duties to protect and provide for his family. His loss leaves us with unanswered questions but also fills us with the sat-

isfaction of knowing Scott loved us, and was loved in return. And that is what makes life fulfilling.

I ask that two articles in tribute to Scott from his hometown paper the McCook Gazette be printed in their entirety in the RECORD.

The documents follow:

[From the McCook Daily Gazette, Feb. 10, 2004]

MONDAY BRINGS WORST FEARS, BEST MEMORIES

While the example of his life burns brightly in our minds, we need to find fitting ways to pay tribute to the memory of Scott Hoffman.

In some form—either through a monument, an award, a scholarship or another appropriate means—we need to come up with a lasting memorial to eulogize Scott and to create an inspiration for generations to come.

Because, in his 33 years of life, this dynamic young man showed us the importance of getting involved, staying involved and remaining faithful to your family, your church, your job and your community.

Scott Hoffman did all that . . . and much more. As you have already heard on radio and television and read on the front page of the newspaper, the search for Scott ended tragically Monday afternoon when his body was found by a diver in the Huck Finn Pond at Barnett Park.

With the discovery our worst fears were realized. While we mourn, we also give praise for the life Scott lived.

To give illustrations of how highly he was held in esteem, we offer two recent examples. First, following a recent speech which Scott gave on Sen. Ben Nelson's behalf, a member of the news media addressed Scott, "You are very well spoken and very focused on the issues. Would you consider running for office yourself?" Then, late in 2003, Scott was asked, privately, to consider entering his name in application for the director's position with the McCook Economic Development Corp.

In both cases, politely and humbly, Scott declined. "I'm where I want to be and I am doing what I want to do," is the best way to summarize his answers. He appreciated the opportunities, but remained dedicated, devoted and satisfied with the course his life was taking.

We don't find that kind of steadfast loyalty nearly enough in these times. You could see the love and respect for Scott shine through Monday evening in radio and television interviews with his good friend, Kerry Ferguson; the Gazette editor, Bruce Crosby; and Red Willow County Sheriff, Gene Mahon.

They were more than Scott's co-workers and officials with whom he worked. They were Scott's friends, as were so many others in this region, this State, and—increasingly through his work with Sen. Nelson—this Nation.

It is both important and appropriate that we remember Scott Hoffman. He served us and shared with us during his 33 years of life. In times to come, we need to cherish his memory and be uplifted by his example through a lasting memorial.

[From the McCook Daily Gazette, Feb. 10, 2004]

A GUY WHO SPENT HIS TIME WELL (By Bruce Crosby)

Scott Hoffman took his two sons, Christian, 9, and Stephen, 6, sledding Sunday afternoon.

He went to the grocery store for his wife, Darcey, and carried the food into the kitchen.

"I guess I'll take the dogs for a run," he said, heading out the door with their three pets.

I've written before about my late step-mother, Alyce, who always said, "I'd rather wear out, than rust out."

She lived by that saying, spending her time caring for her family—offering advice to her often bewildered stepson—volunteering for her church and community, almost to the end, at the of 83.

I wish Scott would have had the same chance. As it was, he spent his last Sunday the way he spent most of his spare time—taking care of those he loved.

Scott deserved another 50 years, at least as much as any of us do. He was just hitting his stride when he was called from this life Sunday afternoon, at the age of 33.

Maybe his memory will help us make the right choices when it comes to how we spend our precious days on earth.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Evans, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 1:23 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Hays, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolutions, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H. Con. Res. 264. Concurrent resolution authorizing and requesting the President to issue a proclamation to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the birth of Constantino Brumidi.

H. Con. Res. 357. Concurrent resolution permitting the use of the rotunda of the Capitol for a ceremony to award a Congressional Gold Medal to Dr. Dorothy Height.

H. Con. Res. 358. Concurrent resolution authorizing the printing of "History of the United States Capitol" as a House document.

H. Con. Res. 359. Concurrent resolution permitting the use of the rotunda of the Capitol for a ceremony as part of the commemoration of the days of remembrance of victims of the Holocaust.

At 7:02 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Hays, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolution, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H. Con. Res. 361. Concurrent resolution providing for a conditional adjournment of the House of Representatives and a conditional recess or adjournment of the Senate.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bills were read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

S. 2061. A bill to improve women's health access to health care services and provide improved medical care by reducing the excessive burden the liability system places on the delivery of obstetrical and gynecological services.

S. 2062. A bill to amend the procedures that apply to consideration of interstate class actions to assure fairer outcomes for class members and defendants, and for other purposes.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-6253. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report of D.C. Act 15-311, "Distracted Driving Safety Act of 2004"; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-6254. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report of D.C. Act 15-312, "Police and Firemen's Service Longevity Amendment Act of 2004"; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-6255. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report of D.C. Act 15-313, "Henry Kennedy Memorial Tennis Courts Designation Act of 2004"; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-6256. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report of D.C. Act 15-315, "Closing of a Public Square 2848 and of a Portion of Kenyon Street, N.W., S.O. 03-411, Act of 2004"; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-6257. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report of D.C. Act 15-314, "Extension of the Time Period for Disposition of a Property Located at 2341 4th Street, N.E., Amendment Act of 2004"; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-6258. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report of D.C. Act 15-331, "Medical Support Establishment and Enforcement Amendment Act of 2004"; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-6259. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report of D.C. Act 15-332, "Neighborhood Investment Act of 2004"; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-6260. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report of D.C. Act 15-333, "Water and Sewer Authority Collections Clarification Amendment Act of 2004"; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-6261. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report of D.C. Act 15-334, "Closing of a Public Alley in Square 316, S.O. 03-2973, Act of 2004"; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-6262. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report

of D.C. Act 15-336, "Documents Administrative Cost Assessment Temporary Amendment Act of 2004"; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-6263. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report of D.C. Act 15-335, "Prevention of Premature Release of Mentally Incompetent Defendants Temporary Amendment Act of 2004"; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-6264. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report of D.C. Act 15-294, "Board of Veterinary Examiners Amendment Act of 2004"; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-6265. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report of D.C. Act 15-296, "Health Care Privatization Rulemaking Amendment Act of 2004"; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-6266. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report of D.C. Act 15-295, "Traffic Adjudication Appeal Fee Amendment Act of 2004"; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-6267. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report of D.C. Act 15-297, "Closing of a Portion of Jewett Street, N.W., S.O. 98-272, Act of 2004"; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-6268. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report of D.C. Act 15-298, "Closing of Portions of the Alley System in Square 2868, S.O. 01-4094, Act of 2004"; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-6269. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report of D.C. Act 15-299, "Washington Convention Center Authority Term Limit Amendment Act of 2004"; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-6270. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report of D.C. Act 15-300, "Electric Standard Offer Service Amendment Act of 2004"; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-6271. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report of D.C. Act 15-301, "Closing of Public Alleys in Square 2672, S.O. 03-757, Act of 2004"; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-6272. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report of D.C. Act 15-302, "Office of Administrative Hearings Independence Preservation Temporary Amendment Act of 2004"; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-6273. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report of D.C. Act 15-303, "Interim Disability Assistance Temporary Amendment Act of 2004"; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-6274. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report of D.C. Act 15-304, "Child and Youth, Safety and Health Omnibus Temporary Amendment Act of 2004"; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-6275. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report of D.C. Act 15-305, "Bonus Depreciation Decoupling Temporary Act of 2004"; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.